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INSPECTION & WEIGHING UPDATE

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FEDERAL GRAIN INSPECTION SERVICE

Federal Grain Inspection Service
U. S. Department of Agriculture
Washington, D.C. 20250

September 1980

FGIS CORRECTIVE ACTIONS ON INCREASE:

Notices of corrective actions have recently been issued at the rate of about 10 per week, a sizable increase.

FGIS officials believe the increase may be at least partially due to new review procedures that have been developed.

A corrective action is a notice issued to a licensee about some deficiency in work procedures.

The corrective action may require the licensee to take additional training, or be retested to determine if he is still qualified to perform the required work.

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MILLED RICE DEFINITION CHANGED:

A one-year trial change in the definition of milled rice began Aug. 1 to evaluate whether this will help U.S. rice millers compete on more equal terms with other rice exporters in the world market.

The present requirement in the U.S. Grain Standards that a part of the germ must be removed from grain marketed as milled rice may cause some lots of rice to be overmilled.

The temporary suspension of the germ requirement is expected to permit millers to produce lightly milled rice without removing an excessive amount of bran.

It will also provide time for USDA and the industry to evaluate the change on rice marketing. The U.S. is the leading exporter of rice in the world market. More than two-thirds of all U.S. rice is sold to foreign buyers.

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FGIS CHECKING FOR AFLATOXIN IN CORN:

Oct 27 '80

Results of FGIS tests for aflatoxin contamination are presently inconclusive but indicate higher than normal levels in samples of new crop corn grown in the southeastern states. Samples are being taken on a random basis at normal grain inspection points.

Tests for aflatoxin will continue throughout the U.S. as the corn harvest moves north. FGIS is conducting the study as part of its normal inquiry into grain crop conditions, although there has been wide concern that aflatoxin may be a problem in this year's corn crop.

Aflatoxin is a toxic by-product of a mold which can cause cancer in humans. It can also retard growth or cause fatalities to animals and poultry when fed at excessive levels.

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FGIS TO CONDUCT INVESTIGATIONS:

FGIS has reached an agreement with the Office of the Inspector General which is expected to speed up investigations of suspected violations of the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946.

FGIS will conduct its own preliminary investigations to determine if violations have occurred.

Criminal violations that are detected will be referred to OIG for further investigation.

FGIS will conduct non-criminal investigations and proceed with administrative or civil actions against violators where this type of action is justified.

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ELEVATOR SAFETY CHECKLIST AVAILABLE:

A booklet, "Safety-Operations Plans: A Self-Evaluation Safety Checklist for Elevator Operators," has been developed by USDA's Federal Grain Inspection Service.

Copies may be obtained free from FGIS field offices and official grain inspection agencies, or through local USDA offices of the AMS Warehouse Division, Agricultural Stabilization and Conservation Service, or Extension Service.

Copies may also be obtained free by contacting Lewis Lebakken, FGIS Issuance and Coordination Staff, Rm. 1127 Auditors Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 447-3910.

The publication is meant to serve as a guideline for grain elevator operators to determine the effectiveness of their plans for safety, handling emergencies, housekeeping, maintenance, and plant security.

COMMENTS ASKED ON COMMODITY RULES:

FGIS has asked for public comments on marketing regulations for rice, dry beans and dry peas, lentils and milled grain products. The regulations cover the inspection and certification of these products.

FGIS will review the regulations to determine whether they are responsive to users' needs and FGIS policies, and whether any language needs to be clarified.

Notice of the review was published in the Sept. 17 Federal Register. Persons wishing to comment should send two copies of their statements to: FGIS Issuance and Coordination Staff, Rm. 1127 Auditors Bldg., USDA, Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 447-3910.

For more information, contact Edith Christensen, FGIS Inspection Division, Rm. 0637, South Bldg., Washington, D.C. 20250. Phone: (202) 447-8752.

COMPLIANCE DIVISION REORGANIZED:

The FGIS Compliance Division has completed a reorganization to reflect changes in its work patterns and establish its units along more functional lines.

Functions of the former Delegations and Designations Branch are now among duties of a new Regulatory Branch, under James Conrad. Phone: (202) 447-8525.

This branch is responsible for selection of state and private agencies to provide official inspection and weighing services, licensing persons to perform official services, and registering persons and firms engaged in handling, weighing or transporting export grain.

The Enforcement Branch is responsible for evaluating, investigating and processing alleged violations of the U.S. Grain Standards Act and the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946. Enforcement was formerly split among four organizational units.

The branch is also responsible for coordinating enforcement activities with the Office of the Inspector General, Office of General Counsel, and General Accounting Office.

Henry Joyce, the acting chief, may be contacted at (202) 447-9300.

The Review Branch is charged with ensuring that all established policies, plans, procedures, rules and agreements under the Grain Standards Act and AMA Act are effective, efficient and applied on a uniform basis.

Clem Gross, branch chief, may be contacted at (202) 447-6235.

The Regulations and Coordination Staff is responsible for management of the division's information system.

It is also charged with coordinating interpretations, waivers, exemptions, and revisions of regulations under the Grain Standards and AMA Acts.

Mel Aston, staff chief, may be reached at (202) 447-8536.
